



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 30, 1998

Mr. John M. Knight
Assistant Police Legal Advisor
City of Arlington Police Department
101 West Abram Street
Arlington, Texas 76004-0231

OR98-3286

Dear Mr. Knight:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 121102.

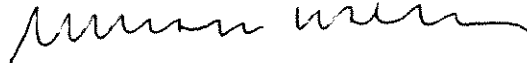
The City of Arlington Police Department (the "department") received a request for a "dog owner's name and address" with reference to a particular dog-bite incident. You seek to withhold the requested information under section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108(c) provides that "[t]his section does not except from [public disclosure] information that is basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime." *See also Houston Chronicle Publishing Company v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No.127 (1976).

You advise that the police report containing the requested information "has been forwarded to the city's Animal Control office, where citations will be issued to the dog owner. Final disposition of these charges will be in municipal court." Assuming that the department has issued a citation to the dog owner in this matter, we conclude that the requested name and address of the dog owner are "basic information" which may not be withheld under the exception you claim, section 552.108. Accordingly, you must release the requested name and address.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Walker', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

William Walker
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

WMW/ch

Ref: ID# 121102

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Michael S. Ballard
SLS Systems
104 S. Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
(w/o enclosures)